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Book and Job Printing

EXECUTED WITH NEATNESS AND DESPATCH.

POETRY.

TO WHO! TO WHO!

'Twas a cold autumn night,
A dismal one to view;
Dark clouds obscured fair Venus' light
And not a star appeared in sight,
As the thick forest thro'
Murmured—as usual—'blue.'
Beat homeward, 'tacking' left and right,
When all at once he brought up right
Against an old dead yew;
At which he 'rounded to,'
And 'squaring off,' as if for fight,
Said, with an oath I shan't indite,
'Infernal scoundrel you!
'Light—ah! I'll lick you—black or white!'
Just then above him flew
An Owl, which on a branch did light,
A few feet off the booby sight,
And then commenced 'To Who—
'To Who—'To Who—'To Who—'
Quoth Muggins—'Don't you think to fight
A fellow of my weight and height
With four To Who's and three Who's,
You cursed bugaboo—
Ah! of your Belzebub, its quite
On necessary you should fight—
For Muggins and you 'due'
My money matters are all right—
THE PRINTER'S PAID UP, HONOR BRIGIT!
'Tis the Owl withdrew;
And Muggins mizzled too.
But there are other chaps who might
Be caught out into some dismal night,
Who have't paid what's due!
They know—TO WHO—TO WHO!

FR. in the Republican Union.

Common Schools—No. 4.

SCHOOL AGENTS.

My last number was devoted to the consideration of the duties of school agents in the employment of teachers. In connection with the same subject, I must not omit to make mention of another cause of complaint, and fruitful source of trouble. I refer to the inexorable delay, of which agents are sometimes guilty, in employing teachers. The performance of this duty is often deferred until the time for the commencement of the school has nearly arrived, when the most competent and best qualified are already employed, or, for lack of such employment, have turned their attention to some other calling; and when none are left but those of an inferior order. From these a selection must be made, or the school-house remains closed;—and better, far better would it be for all interested, that it should remain closed, than opened for the introduction of an incompetent teacher. A consequence of this delay is that the School Committee, in view of the emergency, are often induced to give their certificate to the candidate proposed to be employed, when in truth it should be, and under any other circumstances would be withheld. The selection thus made—if selection it can be called—may, by possibility be a fortunate one; but the chances are altogether the other way. Now what is the manifest duty of the agent in this matter? Is it not to exercise the same prudence, forethought, and prudence, in the management of the affairs of the district, as he does in the management of his own private and personal affairs? The merchant does not defer hiring his master until his ship is loaded, and ready to cast off;—the mechanic does not defer the purchase of his materials until the foundation is finished and prepared for the reception of the buildings;—nor the farmer the preparation of his seed until his fields are furrowed. The school agent has that entrusted to his keeping, which is of more value than ships, houses, or lands; and shall he not care for it, at least, as much?

The employment of a teacher should be, and with the faithful agent always is, his first official act. If the one last employed proved acceptable to parents and children, was duly qualified and competent, he makes haste to secure his services, and by so doing renders a most essential service to the school, as well as to the cause of popular education;—the children are gratified and impatient to resume their studies under the guidance of the teacher whom they have learned to love and respect; and the result is progress;—the teacher encouraged by this manifestation of esteem and confidence, enters with renewed zeal upon the discharge of his duties; and thus, bound by a double tie to the children under his care, devotes the energies of his head and heart to their moral and intellectual improvement.

Next to having a poor teacher, I know of no greater calamity which can befall a school than the perpetual change of teachers; bringing with it, as it almost invariably does, a change of text books, school habits, discipline, and mode of instruction. It is too often made the winter's work of a teacher, to criticize, dissect, and demolish the fabric erected by the one who

preceded him;—under such training it would not be strange if the minds of the children should present a confusion of ideas, equalled only by the confusion of hats, caps, and coats in the entry of the school-room. These evils the agent may in a good measure avoid by adopting the course before suggested. But if the merits of the last teacher are not such as to recommend him for re-engagement, it should be his first business to look around and secure, in season, the services of another;—and that other, not the one who will keep the school the longest period of time for the money which the district has to expend, but the one who will do his duty most faithfully and efficiently during the term for which he undertakes to teach. Cheap instruction is too often to child and parent, what cheap seed is to the cultivator of the soil—yielding a harvest in obedience to an invariable law of nature; but such a harvest as no man cares to reap. But with this difference:—the crop which is not worth gathering, may be left to wither and perish in the field, but the fruit springing from the seed sown in the head of the child, must be gathered, although it be in bitterness and tears.

The existence of this evil and the injurious consequences resulting from it being conceded, the important inquiry naturally arises:—What, and where is the remedy? The remedy, in the first instance, rests with the school agent, and is to be found in the faithful and conscientious discharge of his duty. If he has hitherto erred, through inadvertence or lack of proper consideration of the nature of his obligations and consequences of his neglect in this particular, when once apprised of it, he will make amends, so far as lies in his power, by increased diligence and faithfulness in the future. His regret for the past, will be manifested in words as well as works: he will become a teacher to others, who, without his timely word of caution or instruction, might fall into the same error. But the voice of conscience and of duty sometimes falls upon deaf ears. Then is the remedy, in the last resort, with the district. Let the voice of every man, woman, and child within its limits be heard—not in the feeble tone of murmuring & complaint, but in the bold, and decided language of reproof and condemnation. Let the unfatigable agent know, and feel that he is the object of the indignation which he deserves. If this appeal fails in arousing him to the faithful discharge of his duty, let the qualified voters in the district not fail to do theirs:—let his successor in office be a better man.

W. G. C.

THE STORY TELLER.

From the Columbian Magazine.

DEBTOR AND CREDITOR.

BY T. S. ARTHUR.

Two men met in Wall street. They were merchants. 'What do you think of Carlton's affairs, Mr. Elder?' asked one of them.

'I think we shall secure a pretty fair per centage, don't you?'

'Yes, if we wind him up.'

'That we shall do, of course. Why let him go on? It will take him two or three years to get through it, if at all.'

'If he can get through in two or three years, I shall certainly be in favor of letting him go on. Times have been rather hard, and business dull. But every thing looks encouraging now.'

'I don't believe in extensions, Mr. Highland. The surest way when a man gets into difficulties, is to wind him up and secure what you can.—Ten chances to one, if you let him go on, you lose every cent.'

'I have granted extensions in several instances, Mr. Elder,' replied his companion, 'and obtained eventually my whole claim, except in a single case.'

'It's always a risk. I go by the motto 'a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush,' returned Elder. 'I'm always ready to take what I can get to-day, and never trust to the morrow. This is my way of doing business.'

'But do you not think the debtor is entitled to some consideration?'

'How? with a look of surprise.

'He is a man of like passions with ourselves.'

'I don't know that I understand you exactly, Mr. Highland.'

'Mr. Carlton has domestic relations as well as you and I.'

'I never doubted it. But what of that?'

'If we break him up in business, the evil will not visit him alone. Think of the effect upon his family.'

'In trade we never consider a man's family relations.'

'But should we not, Mr. Elder?—Should we not regard the debtor as a man?'

'As a man that owes us, and is unable to pay what is due, but in no other light,' returned Mr. Elder, with a slight curl of the lip.

'There we differ, widely.'

'And will continue to differ, I imagine. Good morning, Mr. Highland.'

The two men parted.

An hour previous, Mr. Carlton, about whom they had been conversing sat with his family, a wife and three daughters, at the breakfast table. He tried to converse in his usual cheerful manner, but too heavy a weight was on his heart.

There had come a crisis in his affairs, which he feared would not be passed without ruin to himself. If the effect of this would not reach beyond his store and counting room—if upon his head alone would fall the fragments of a broken fortune, he would not have murmured. But the disaster could not stop here. It would extend even to the sanctuary of home.

As their father had little to say, the daughters

chatted about various matters of interest to themselves. They little knew how many a pang their words occasioned. Bright hopes glittered for them in the distance; but the father alone knew how imminent was the danger that threatened destruction to all those luring hopes. He felt oppressed and gloomy when he left the house, and bent his steps in the direction of his store. On the day previous he had called in a few of his creditors, and asked of them an extension. If this was not given, it would be impossible for him to keep on longer than a few weeks. The spirit in which most of his creditors had received the unexpected announcement that he was in difficulties gave him a little hope. He was to have another interview with them during the day. From that, as it would exhibit the results of a night's reflection upon the minds of his creditors, he would be able to see clearly his chances of being continued in business. He awaited the hour with tremulous anxiety. When it arrived, and the few creditors called in had assembled, he saw little in their faces to give him hope. The first who spoke out plainly was Elder.

'I, gentlemen,' he said, firmly, 'am opposed to all extension. If a man cannot pay as he goes I think he had better wind up.'

'If I do not agree in this matter, it will be no use to attempt extending Mr. Carlton's time,' remarked one of the creditors, who thought and felt as Elder did, but was not willing to come out so plainly.

'That is very true,' said a third. 'A partial extension will be of no use.'

'The heart of poor Carlton almost ceased to beat.'

'Have you any objection to retiring for a few minutes?' said Mr. Highland to the debtor.

'I will withdraw, certainly,' said Mr. Carlton, and left the room.

'My own views, gentlemen,' said Mr. Highland, 'is that we ought to grant all that is asked. Mr. Carlton's business is good, and he will get over his present difficulties easily, if we only assist him a little. We should be just, as men towards man; and this I do not think we shall be in this case, unless we consider Carlton as well as ourselves. He is an honest man, and an honest man in difficulties is always entitled to consideration.'

'That is all very well. But when a man gives his note payable at a certain day, he ought to be very sure that he will be able to take it up.—Creditors are entitled to some consideration, as well as debtors. The cry of 'poor debtor' is soon raised, and who, I wonder, thinks of the poor creditor? I, for one, am not prepared to extend.'

'This was said by Elder.

'As for me,' spoke another, 'I never take but one view of matters like this. If I think I will do better by renewing I am ready to do so. If by winding the party up now, I can do better, I go for winding him up. I have confidence in Carlton's integrity. I believe he means well—but can he get through? that is the question.'

'I believe he can,' said Mr. Highland.

'And I doubt it,' returned Elder.

'Ought we not to consider him as well as ourselves?' urged Mr. Highland. 'He has worked very hard for the last ten years, as hard as any one of us, and has been as anxious to secure a competency for his family as we have been. We should feel for him as well as for ourselves. It would be but a trifle for us to lose all our claims in comparison to the utter ruin to him that would follow our immediate prosecution of them. We could lose ten thousand dollars a piece, but could he bare to lose all he has? I hope every man here will suffer his better feelings to become active in this matter. Let us think of his family. If that will not influence us, let us think of our own families, and imagine them threatened with the same evils that now threaten the family of Mr. Carlton. It is no light thing, gentlemen, let me tell you, to break down a man who is struggling to sustain himself for the sake of those who are dear to him. It is no light thing to extinguish the bright hearth-fire, and scatter those who have gathered for years around it.'

In the eager pursuits of wealth, men's hearts become incrustated over, and they seem to lose all regard for each other's personal condition.—The words of Mr. Highland had the effect to remove this with more than one of Mr. Carlton's creditors. Even Elder did not reply to what he said, but this was more from shame than any other feeling.

'It is rather a hard case, you must yourself confess,' remarked one of those present, 'to have money that you fully expected to receive and can use to advantage, locked up for two or three years.'

'I grant all that, but would it not be a much harder case for Carlton to be broken up root and branch?'

'I suppose it would,' the man replied.

'Then let us do by him as we would be done by ourselves, were we in a similar position,' said Mr. Highland.

'The efforts of Elder to efface the impression the words of Mr. Highland had made, proved in vain. It was agreed that the debtor should receive the extension asked. When informed of this decision, Carlton could not hide his emotion, tho' he strove to do so. His grateful acknowledgments for the favor granted, touched more than one heart that had been cold as ice towards him before. How different were his feelings when he met his family that evening, and silently thanked heaven that the cloud which had hovered over and threatened to break in desolating tempest, had passed the sky.

Long before the arrival of the time for which an extension had been granted, Mr. Carlton was able to pay off every thing, and to look in the

face without unpleasant emotions, every man he met.

Strange things happen in real life. Mr. Elder was a shipper and extensively engaged in trade. For a series of years every thing went on prosperously with him. His adventures always found a good market, and his consignments safe and energetic factors. All this he attributed to his own business acumen.

'I never made bad shipments,' he would sometimes say. 'I never consign to doubtful agents.' A man like Mr. Elder is rarely permitted to go through life without a practical conviction that he is in the hands of One who governs all events. It is rare that such a one does not become painfully conscious in the end that human prudence is as nothing.

The first thing that occurred to check the confident spirit of Mr. Elder was the loss of a ship and cargo under circumstances that gave the underwriter a fair plea for not paying the risk.—He sued and was cast. The loss was twenty-five thousand dollars.

A few weeks after, news came that a shipment to the South American coast had resulted in a loss. From that time every thing seemed to go wrong. His adventures found glutted markets, and his return cargoes a depression of prices. If he held on to anything in a hope of better rates, prices would go down, until in a desperate mood he would sell; then they would go up steadily.—The time was when he confined himself strictly to legitimate trade. But a man for speculation now took hold of him and urged him on to ruin. He even ventured into the bewildering precincts of the stock market, lured by the hope of splendid results. Here he stood upon the ground that soon crumbled beneath his feet. A loss of twenty or thirty thousand dollars cured him of his folly, and he turned with a sigh to digest with care and prudent forethought, some safe operation in his regular business.

But the true balance of his mind was lost. He could not consider with calmness the business in hand. A false move was the consequence. Loss instead of profit was the unfortunate result. Seven years from the day Mr. Elder opposed an arrangement with Mr. Carlton, which should regard the debtor as well as the creditor, he himself found it impossible to provide for all his heavy payments. For some time he had kept his head above water by making sacrifices, but an end of this came.

After a sleepless night the merchant started one morning for his store, oppressed with the sad conviction that before the day would be closed his fair fame would be tarnished. As he walked along Broadway, Mr. Carlton came to his side with a cheerful salutation. Mr. Carlton was now a large creditor instead of a debtor. On that very day, bills in his favor had matured to the amount of five thousand dollars, and these Elder could not pay. The recollection of this made it almost impossible for him to reply to the pleasant observations of his companion. Vividly, as if it had occurred but yesterday, came up before his mind the circumstances that had transpired a few years previously. He remembered how eagerly he had sought, from the merest selfish motives to break down Mr. Carlton and throw him helpless upon the world, and how near he was to accomplishing the merchant's overthrow. Such recollections drove from his mind the hope that for a moment had presented itself of enlisting Mr. Carlton's good feelings, and securing him as a friend in the trial which he was about to pass. Several times during the walk toward Pearl street, he was on the point of breaking the matter to Mr. C., but either his heart failed him or his companion made some remark to which he was compelled to reply. At length they separated without any allusion by Mr. Elder to the subject on which he had been so desirous of speaking. He had not the courage to utter the first word.

But it was only postponing for a brief period the evil day. Several remittances were anxiously looked for that morning. He broke the sealing letter after letter, with trembling anxiety. Alas! the mail brought him no aid. His last hope was gone. Nothing now remained for him but to turn his face bravely to the threatening storm, and bear up against its fury.

For hours he debated the question as to what course it was best to pursue. At one time he thought of leaving them all in ignorance. Then the thought it would be best to notify the holders of paper due on that day that it would not be taken up. It was one o'clock before he could calmly resolve on what course to take. Then it seemed to him best to give notice of his condition. His heart failed him when he attempted to write his name. Vividly, as if it had occurred but the day previous, came up before his mind all the circumstances attendant upon that gentleman's appeal to his creditors. His cheek burned when he remembered the position he had assumed in that affair.

But, even though such were his feelings when he came to dispatch the notes he had prepared he could only find courage to send the one written to Mr. Carlton. The other creditors, whose bills had matured that day, he thought he should go and see; but half an hour passed without his acting upon the resolution to do so. Most of his time was spent in walking uneasily the floor of his counting room; or examining certain accounts in his ledger, or entries in his bill book. He was bending all absorbed over a page of calculations at his desk, when some one entered unperceived, pronounced his name. He turned quickly around and looked Mr. Carlton in the face. The color mounted instantly to the temples of Mr. Elder. He tried to speak, but could not.

'Your note has taken me altogether by sur-

prise,' said Mr. Carlton. 'But I hope things are not so bad as you suppose.'

Mr. Elder shook his head. He tried to speak but could not.

'How much have you to pay to-day?' asked Mr. Carlton.

'Ten thousand dollars,' was the reply, in a husky voice.

'How much have you towards it?'

'Not two thousand.'

'How much due to-morrow?'

'Four thousand.'

'How much due in a month?'

'Fifty thousand.'

'What will be your available resources?'

'Not half the amount.'

'Hav'n't you good bills?'

'Yes, but not negotiable.'

'Mr. Carlton mused for some time. At length he said,

'You must not live over to-day.'

'I cannot help it.'

'If you will transfer to me, as security in case you have to stop payment, the bills of which you speak, I will lend you the amount you want to-day.'

The color retired from the cheeks of Mr. Elder, and then back with a quick flush. He made no answer but looked steadily and doubtfully into Mr. Carlton's face.

'I have been in difficulties myself, and I know how to sympathize with others,' said the latter. 'We should aid if we can, not break down a fellow merchant when in trouble. Endorse bills to my order for the sum you want, and I will fill up a check for the amount.'

Elder turned slowly to his desk and took there from sundry notes of hand in his favor at various dates from six to twelve months, and endorsed them payable to Carlton; who immediately gave him a check for eight thousand dollars and left the store.

A clerk was instantly dispatched to the bank, and then Mr. Elder sunk into a chair, half stupefied. He could hardly believe his senses until the cancelled notes were placed in his hands.

Rebuked and humbled in spirits, the anxious merchant retired from his counting room and sought his home. His heart felt lighter than it had for many days, and yet he could feel its weight in his bosom. In his extremity aid had come, but from a quarter least dreamed of—from one who in a like extremity had asked him for consideration, but asked in vain.

On the next morning, Mr. Elder went to his place of business with feelings but little less troubled, than they had been on the day before. His payments were lighter, but his means were for the first time exhausted. The best he could do would be to borrow, but he already owed heavily for borrowed money, and was not certain that to go farther was practicable. He thought of Mr. Carlton; but every feeling of his heart forbade him to seek aid from him.

'I deserve no consideration there, and I cannot ask,' he murmured as he pursued his way towards his store. The first thing that met his eye on entering his countingroom was a pile of ship letters. He broke the seal or the first one he took up, with eagerness. 'Thank God!' was his almost immediate exclamation. It was from one of his Captains, and contained drafts for fifteen thousand dollars. It also informed him that the ship Sarah, commanded by said Captain, would sail for home in a week with a return cargo of hides and specie amounting to thirty thousand dollars. The voyage had been profitable beyond expectation.

Elder had just finished reading the letter when Mr. Carlton came in. Seizing the kind-hearted merchant by the hand, and pressing it hard he said with emotion—

'Mr. Carlton, you have saved me! Ah! sir—this would be to me a far happier moment, if seven years ago, when you were in trouble, I had as generously aided you.'

'Let the past sleep in peace,' returned Mr. Carlton. 'If fortune has smiled again permit me to rejoice with you, as I do with all who are blessed with favoring gales. To meet with difficulties is of use to us. It gives us the power of sympathy with others; and that gift we should desire, for it is a good thing to lift the burden from shoulders bent down with too heavy a weight, and throw sunlight over a heart shaded by gloom.'

Mr. Elder recovered from his crippled condition in the course of a few months. He was never again known to oppress a suffering debtor.

Nonony. There is not a more arrant knave in all christendom, than a certain noted personage who goes by the name of Nobody.

If your furniture be broken or defaced, and you make an inquiry of your kitchen folks it presently appears from their testimony, that it was done by Nobody.

If your farming tools be lost or spoiled and you inquire who lost or spoiled them you will find it was Nobody.

If a false and slanderous story be told against you and be breezed over town and country before you know it, and you try hard to find out the original author, nine chances in ten, that it will turn out that Nobody made it.

Probably True. Somebody says that a newspaper in a family is equal to three months' time in a school each year. Go into the family where a newspaper is taken, and into those who 'cannot afford it,' and mark the difference of the children and be convinced.

About 500 printers have dropped the 'shooting stick' for the fire-lock, and gone to the war.

also by the following Agents:—Paris, J. K. HAST-
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